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DCI file

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The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing a copy of the report of the Board of Inquiry which I constituted to conduct a review of the Francis Gary Powers' case. The Board was presided over by Judge E. Barrett Prettyman, who recently retired from the United States Circuit Court of Appeals after a distinguished career as a Federal Judge. The members of the Board were Lt. General Harold Roe Bull, U.S.A., Ret., who in addition to his military career worked with our Office of National Estimates and had familiarity with the intelligence field, and Mr. John A. Bross, a senior and very experienced officer of this Agency with a legal background.

I feel that this capable Board, in a remarkably short time and under considerable pressure, conducted a most detailed and objective review of all possible aspects of the performance of Mr. Powers from the time he engaged in his mission until he was released by Soviet Russia.

All facilities the Government could provide were available to the Board, including trained interrogators, doctors, psychiatrists, intelligence specialists, security officials, aviation technicians, and polygraph operators. In my opinion the Board has established the facts as far as humanly possible and has come to the sound conclusion that Mr. Powers complied with the terms of his employment and under the circumstances which confronted him met his obligations as an American citizen. I endorse the Board's conclusion and believe that in its resolution of this difficult matter it has performed a valuable public service for this Agency and the country.

Respectfully yours,

SIGNED

Enclosure
(under separate cover)

John A. McCone
Director